



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1758 | FAX (517) 373.0938

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/

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Contact: Kerry Krone
517-373-1758

Sen. Cassis: GM's new state-of-the-art test facility "leading the way"

LANSING—General Motors Corp.'s new powertrain vehicle-development facility is a \$50 million investment that will help retain Michigan jobs for years to come, said state Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi. The company today held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the GM Milford Proving Ground for its technologically advanced High Feature Test Facility. Cassis, who attended the event, said the facility is one of the most advanced and sophisticated of its kind in the world.

"While the news today is abuzz with the possible Milford whereabouts of the late Jimmy Hoffa, the real breaking news is the ceremony of the opening of GM's High Feature Test Facility," said Cassis. "General Motors is leading the way with an exceptional example of how to combine state-of-the-art technologies with established industries."

The facility can simulate any type of road system in the world, thanks to the mapping of more than 20 mountain and desert roads by GM engineers. It features high-tech equipment that will allow GM to test its cars in every conceivable environmental condition and climate, under one roof, 365 days a year.

These innovations will reduce cost, allowing General Motors to keep its test drivers home instead of sending them to the desert or arctic climates or out into the rain or snow. The facility also enables GM to test vehicles' fuel emissions in one place, further decreasing costs.

Cassis praised GM for its commitment to developing and advancing new technologies as well as technology and science education.

"General Motors Proving Ground is the sponsor of the National Championship, award-winning Huron Valley Robotics H.O.T. (Heroes of Tomorrow) Team, dedicated to spurring interest among high-school students in careers in technology, math and science," said Cassis. "GM's determination to be at the forefront in this area should mean more career options in technology fields, which is great news for Michigan's economic future."

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